



STATE OF MICHIGAN

**Family
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News Release

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Welfare caseload seasonally up in August But caseload still low by historic standards

LANSING – Family Independence Agency Director Douglas E. Howard announced today the August Family Independence Program (FIP) caseload was 71,976, an increase over the July 2001 caseload of 70,440.

“Seasonal changes in the caseload are not unusual,” Howard said. “The short term caseload increase reflects economic activity in recent months.

“But the long-term trend is still positive. The August caseload is on a par with the caseload in March 1970 when it was 69,328.

“With the exception of eleven modest increases, the caseload has been in decline since March 1994, in 78 out of the last 89 months. During that time, the caseload dropped by 69 percent.

“So while there may be short term increases, the long term impact shows welfare reform efforts are helping people trade welfare checks for paychecks.”

Of the August cases, only 31,000 families were required to participate in Work First and expected to work. The rest were exempt for legitimate reasons.

“The ongoing decline in the need for assistance leads us to believe this year’s average monthly caseload will remain lower than the average for fiscal year 2000,” Howard said.

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JOHN ENGLER, Governor

For more information consult the FIA website at www.mfia.state.mi.us